

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 11741 191018Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5197

S E C R E T BANGKOK 11741

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILI, TH, MOPS, XO

SUBJECT: U.S. INDIAN OCEAN PATROL FROM UTAPAO

FOR SNEIDER FROM KINTNER

REF: STATE 153623

1. MY MESSAGES WILL HAVE SHOWN THAT EVEN BEFORE HEARING FROM YOU ON WEDNESDAY, BANGKOK TIME, I AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY TEAM HAD BEEN VIGOROUSLY PRESENTING OUR VIEWS TO THE THAI. SINCE YOUR MESSAGE CAME IN, I HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO TALK WITH MARSHAL THAWI AT LUNCH ON WEDNESDAY AND LAST NIGHT WITH GENERAL KRIT. DURING A CALL ON GENERAL KRUEEN, THE NEW MINISTER OF DEFENSE, WHO SEEMS TO HAVE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN PROVIDING MOD CONCURRENCE IN THE MFA ACTION, THERE WAS NO CHANCE FOR SOLID SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION; HE HAS SINCE PASSED WORD THAT HE CANNOT ACCEPT MY SUGGESTION FOR A WORKING DINNER EARLY NEXT WEEK, BUT I WILL FOLLOW UP AND HOPE TO HAVE A SOLID TALK WITH HIM WHEN HIS SCHEDULE PERMITS, PERHAPS IN EARLY AUGUST. STEVE WINSHIP AS ACTING DCM HAS ALSO PRESENTED OUR CASE DIRECTLY TO GENERALS KRIT AND KRIANGSAK.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, NONE OF OUR TALKS GIVES ME ANY ENCOURAGEMENT TO THINK THAT THE RTG WILL REVERSE ITS PUBLICIZED

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POSITION CANCELLING OUR INDIAN OCEAN RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS.

WE ARE THEREFORE CONCNRATING OUR EFFORTS ON REINFORCING THE MUTUAL
SECURITY UNDERSTANDING OF OUR FIRENDS, IN HOPES THAT THEY WILL BE
MORE EFFECITVE NEXT TIME IN RESISTING THE MANEUVERS OF THOSE WHO
WOULD LIKE TO FORCE US OUT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. AT THE SAME TIME
WE ARE URGING CIRCUMSPECTION AND PATIENCE SO AS NOT TO JEOPARIDZE
WHAT WE HAVE LEFT IN TERMS OF SUPPORT FLIGHTS INTO THE INDIAN
OCEAN FROM UTAPAO.
KINTNER

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